

Homecoming Committee to sponsor pizza party & dance

By Abraham Lincoln Public Affairs

The Abraham Lincoln Homecoming Committee has scheduled a free pizza and dance party Feb. 11 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Commons on Naval Station Everett to kick off the celebrations for the carrier's return to homeport.

Along with food and fun, Homecoming coordinators will be providing important information concerning the schedule of events for the next day including official Homecoming 2001 programs with the entire morning's events.

Drawings for preferred parking, the first kiss, and Cinderella Raffle baskets will be held and a shipboard video of Abe Sailors will be available for viewing.

All parents who purchased an official Homecoming 2001 for their children can pick them up at the party or purchase one if desired. Additional official Homecoming 2001 memorabilia will be on sale to help the support groups (Homecoming Fundraising, ALESG and SOALO).

Parking for the event will be in Lot "A" with a short walk to the Commons.

Separation: The finer points

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than-honorable conditions," Wright added.

The first step in the separation process is an appointment with the Sailor's career counselor to fill out an Individual Transition Plan (DD 2648).

"Sailors should start the process six months prior to their separation date," Wright said. "I have a checklist that covers the whole process from beginning to end that will guide future civilians from point

A to point B."

Wright stresses the various benefits Sailors are entitled to during the brief.

"The big ones are the G.I. Bill, home loan guarantee, and the various state benefits that Sailors might not be aware of," Wright explained.

Some of the state benefits include tuition coverage in Illinois and Connecticut and a land grant in Texas.

"If anyone is interested in joining the reserves after active duty, it's a great way to maintain a few of the active duty benefits," Wright added.

He mentioned various officer programs, MWR and commissary privileges, and reserve retirement.

Anyone interested in the pre-separation brief should contact the Command Career Counselors' office at J-7292.

Bush: Pledges support to military

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process of a transition to something that will follow the Cold War," he said. "Rather we may be in a period of continuing change, and, if so, the sooner we wrap our heads around that fact, the sooner we can get about the business of making this nation and its citizens as safe and secure as they must be in our new national security environment."

The country is safer now from nuclear war, Rumsfeld said, but "more vulnerable now to suitcase bombs, to cyberterrorists, to raw and random violence of the outlaw regime."

Keeping America safe in a dangerous world is within the country's reach "provided we work now and we work together to shape budgets, programs, strategies and force structure to meet threats we face and those that are emerging," he said.

"The changes we make in our defense posture, the innovations we introduce, take time to be made part of a great military force," Rumsfeld continued. "We need to get about the business of making these changes now in order to remain strong not just in this decade, but in decades to come."

DOD launches web site for transitioning Sailors

By DoD Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced today a new Internet resource for servicemembers leaving active duty.

Dubbed the DoD Transportal and located at <http://www.dodtransportal.org>, the web site is designed to be the doorway to Internet transition and job assistance information and services for departing servicemembers and their spouses.

The online service is intended to complement the existing network of transition assistance offices at more than 212 major military installations worldwide.

The Web site has three main features: "Transition Assistance" provides a brief overview of the DoD Transition Assistance Program, including a general discussion of all benefits and services available to servicemembers and their families.

"At Your Service" provides the locations and phone numbers of all transition assistance offices worldwide and links to other transition-related Web sites.

The last feature, "Your Next Career," provides mini-courses on conducting a successful job search campaign and creating resumes; information on avoiding Internet scams; and links to job search web sites and corporate recruiting sites. There is also a suggested reading list of books that can be used as job search resources.